

Understanding Culture Society and Politics

Quarter 1 – Module 5: Socialization

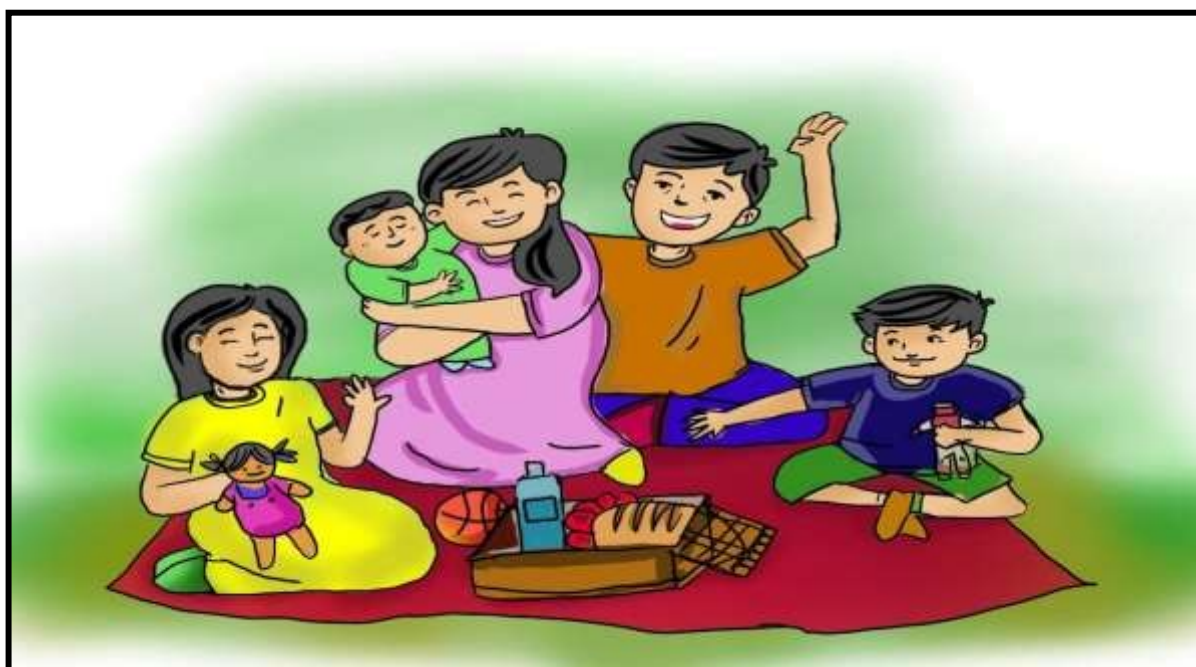


What is It

In this part of your journey, we provide something for you to read in order to deepen your understanding about the topic.

Please do it with comprehension to discover knowledge that will help you out in dealing with the next phase of your quest.

SOCIALIZATION



Do you see the picture? What do you have in mind?

Very good! If you think that **socialization** is very important in our lives, you are absolutely correct. But what is meant by socialization really?

Socialization simply means the process of learning one's society and its culture. It is moreover the same as interacting, mingling and being with other people or groups within/ outside of your society.

How do you feel in a situation when it seems that you don't belong and you are being isolated? Good thinking! Of course, you will feel sad and lonely. That kind of feeling only shows that socialization is important to you --- and to all of us.



Through socialization, one learns the culture's language, their roles in life, and what is expected from them. Without socialization, a person will develop different physical and mental disabilities. It is sad to know that individuals with no successful socialization develop mental illness, abnormal or odd behavior and self-isolation. Do you know that there are different groups of people that influence your orientations and perspectives to life? These groups are called **agents of socialization**. These agents play a crucial role in developing yourself as a person and a member of the society.

Family is the first agent of socialization.

Most of the habits, manners, beliefs and the way we think are developed in the family. A huge part of your personality is molded by your family because this is where you spent your childhood. Your family influences you on the way you behave and act as a person. This is when the socialization process is crucial and intense. Do you still remember your happy moments in school? Of course, you do.

School is another agent of socialization.

Here, you interact or socialize with other people- your classmates, teachers, administrators, and others which are outside your family within a society. Your socialization with them has made a lot of experiences in you. It is in the school that your behavior and



attitude are shape to become a better member of society. So, a part of your personality is developed by this agent. Do you agree?



Your circle of friends is also an agent of socialization. It is called **peer group**. Your peers usually have similar ages, social status and share interests. Your peer group influences you on the way you can accept yourself. It is with your peer group that you find yourself belonged.

I'm sure you learned a lot from your friends, didn't you? So, you are right when you think that they are also important agent in

shaping your personality.

Social media as agent of socialization plays a crucial role in shaping your personality as well. Majority of us, young and old, are connected through social media. Much of our waking time is spent on using social media.

So, this agent of socialization influences your way of life intensively thus doing large part in your personal development. There are other socialization agents who are also important in moulding you as a person: the community, the church and the government.

You see? What you are now is a product of socialization. You have been socializing from the time you were born until now. Socialization is a continuing process until we die. Socialization is really a **necessity** for it develops you as person.



ENCULTURATION



We are living in a society of many cultures. Culture is the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious or social group (merriam-webster.com). These cultures make people different from one another. A group has a set of shared attitudes and practices which are partially or even totally apart from

what others have.

As an individual grows up in a social group, he/she learns to understand his/her identity. This is where enculturation comes in. Enculturation is the process by which people learn the requirements of their surrounding culture and acquire values and behaviours appropriate or necessary in that culture (<https://www.definitions.net/definition/Enculturation>).

According to Stephen A. Grunland and Marvin K. Mayers (1988) (as cited from Hoebel, 1982), enculturation is both a conscious and an unconscious conditioning process whereby man, as child and adult, achieves competence in his culture, internalizes his culture and becomes thoroughly enculturated. Socializing with people plays a great part in achieving it. He/she deals with. An individual also learns from observing the surrounding he/she is in.

As a child lives with his family and the community, he/she adapts socially accepted values (e.g. attending to religious obligations, respecting the elders, etc.) At a very young age, a child is instilled with values by his/her parents and family. He / She sees the importance of being together as respected when they eat. Also, he/she



learns the foundations of learning; be it reading the alphabet and counting of numbers.



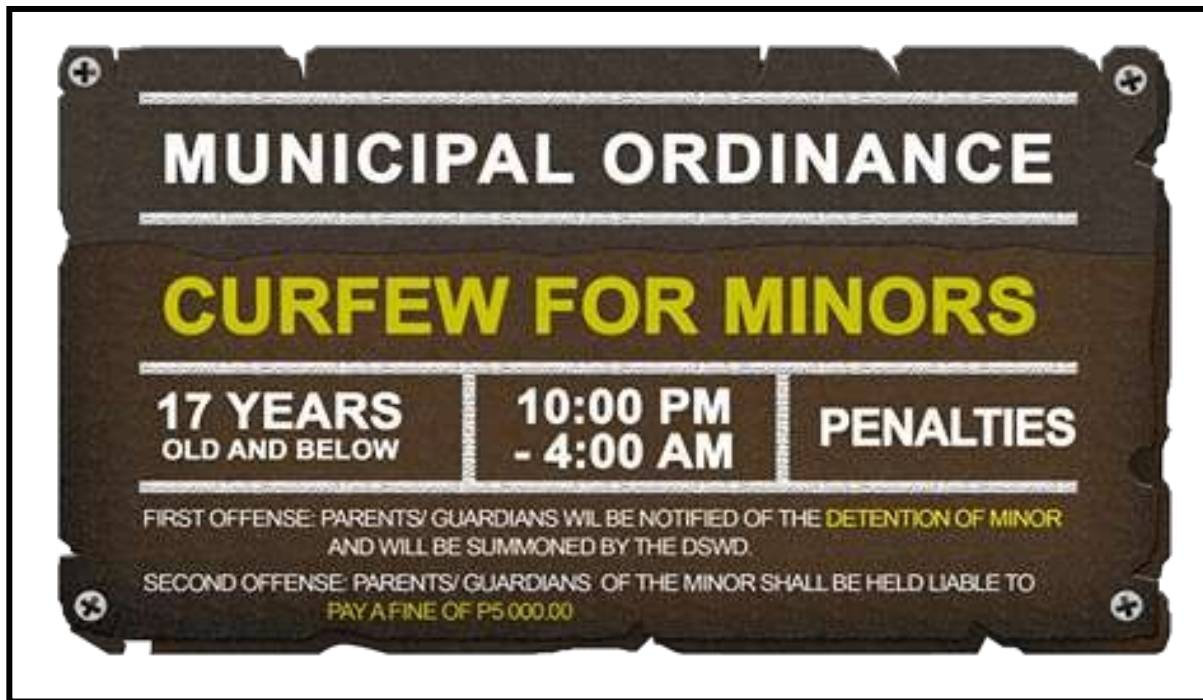
In school, he/she learns to be socially educated person as he/she observes and adapts the behaviour of other people (e.g. singing the National Anthem, paying respect to the flag, showing respect to teachers and valuing friendship among friends and classmates). A person becomes more civilized as he learns more of culturally accepted behaviour and knowledge in school.

In a community, a person may be inspired to practice social duties and obligations as observed and learned from those who do great contributions for the welfare of most people. In these practices, one may also become a steward of goodwill.

A teenager learns to clothe himself/herself like his/her friends or in great chances, adapts how they behave and act. He / She appreciate the value of friendship, learn to find joy in sharing commonalities and accepts differences in choices and decisions. His / Her confidence in dealing with people can be rooted from a well-maintained relationship with friends.

The government upon its imposition of law refines a person's way of living. Through which, he/she learns his civil rights and exercises them righteously. Likewise, he/she learns to respect government policies and abides to them, knowing that every action has limitation.





In his/her dealing with religious affiliations, a person's belief in Omnipotent Being is strengthened. This cultivates the idea that everyone like a brother and a sister. Thus, respect towards one another is valued. He or she learns to respect differences in faith.

Parents and other authorities are called the initiators of enculturation. As one is enculturated by those initiators, the process is manifested in his/her actions, choices and decisions. If it is not because of enculturation, a person will not become the way he/she in the society. One will not be able to discern what is right from wrong or even make actions to handle problems encountered. Because of enculturation, an individual knows the boundaries of his/her actions, words and ideals. As a learned individual, one becomes accepted by the group he/she belongs with. Enculturation teaches a person of his/her roles in the society. True enough, he/she becomes functional member of the society.

